Then about the maintenance of roads in the Alleppey town, the Municipality undertook the work for a period of five years. That period has now elapsed. You say that Government might resume the maintenance of roads. I do not think that it can be said, as a general rule, that all roads in the municipal towns should be taken over by Government and should be maintained by them. The Municipalities have a duty to maintain at least the secondary roads within their limits. That is a question which has to be taken up not in an isolated fashion but with regard at least to all the major municipalities in the State and the matter is under consideration and I shall try to see that some final orders are passed soon.

In regard to the construction of the Kothuvalchavadi bridge, an estimate has been sanctioned and the Chief Engineer expects to take up that work soon.

With regard to the provision of more godowns for Indian merchants, especially importers of rice and paddy, I shall consider that point.

With regard to the reduction of landing charges at Alleppey, I may say, the charges are even now low, much lower than the rates in Cochin. Your suggestion for further reduction will also be considered.

Provision of a *junghar* at Arur is the next point you urge. This matter is also under consideration. I am in correspondence with the officers of the Cochin Government. I expect to arrive at an agreement before long.

The next point is the appointment of a committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into the grievances of Indian shippers at Alleppey and suggesting remedial measures. This will be carefully gone into.

Then you dealt with income tax. If you will kindly hand over your remarks about the various difficulties you mentioned, I shall refer them to the Income Tax Commissioner and see what can be done. In regard to one of them, namely, Income Tax Officers looking into accounts, it seems to me that it is not possible to take away the discretion from the officers concerned. Of course, the Income Tax Officers should not call for the accounts, unless they have reason to suspect the correctness of the figures. Subject to that limitation, full discretion has to be vested in the officer who is to be satisfied of their correctness.

All I can say is that the Income Tax Officers will be instructed not to call for accounts, except when necessary.

The other points raised by you in that connection will be referred to the Income Tax Commissioner.

33. Economic Development.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that, for the general benefit of the country, Government should devote attention to public health and the economic advancement of the people. While

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some attention was being paid to the former, neither time nor money was devoted to the latter. The cry was being raised in all parts of the country for the improvement of its economic condition. The Government should provide sufficient funds in the budget for the purpose and see that they did not lapse at the end of the year.

The Economic Development Board, which was constituted by Dewan Mr. Raghaviah, did some useful work during his time; but since then nothing had been done by the Board. The condition of the Board required that it should either be abolished or improved. There was an increase in the number of applicants for appointment in such committees. While some members were elected by the members of the Legislative Council, others were nominated by Government without any regard to their capacity or fitness. A seat on the Board should be reserved for being filled up by a member of the Assembly. The member said that he did not make the suggestion out of his anxiety to be on the Board. It would have been better if the members of the Assembly were also made eligible for membership in the Banking Enquiry Committee.

None of the departments which were primarily concerned in the improvement of the economic condition of the people were working with enthusiasm. The head of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who was also the Census Commissioner, could pay only scanty attention to the improvement of agriculture. It was high time to abolish the Fruit Farm at Cape Comorin, as no useful purpose was being served by such demonstration farms. It was not desirable to open the demonstration farm for rubber, as the department could not successfully undertake the cultivation of rubber. Government should encourage the discovery and adoption of more useful methods of agriculture. An enquiry should be started about the activities of the several experts employed in the Department of Industries, who were trained in foreign countries on Government scholarships. Though one of them was a Leather Expert, leather and leather goods were being imported in large quantities. Insufficient attention to real economic needs caused the diversion of the country's wealth to other places. Government should convene a conference of peoples' representatives and devise ways and means for putting an end to the drain.

Government were not encouraging indigenous banks which were an indispensable aid to industries, trade and agriculture. The funds, which were invested in the Imperial Bank of India, could more profitably be lent by Government to local banks and to the persons engaged in trade and industry. If the Government would thoughtfully and sympathetically tackle the economic problem, the quarrel over the distribution of offices would disappear in course of time.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, in your representation, there are very valuable suggestions for the economic advancement of the country. Government will carefully note them.

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You say that all the development departments of the State require to be strengthened. No one is more aware of that than the Government themselves. But it may not be possible to do everything at once. You may rest assured that Government will not forget this important aspect of public life. The condition of a Government is a reflection of the economic condition of the people. Unless we have a rich people, we cannot have a rich Government. I do not intend to deal specifically with each of your suggestions; but I may say, all your valuable suggestions will receive the earnest consideration of Government.

In regard to the Leather Expert, you said that his services have not been properly utilised by Government. Your information on that point is not quite up-to-date. This year, Government have resolved to ask the Leather Expert to supply a large proportion of the leather required by the Stationery Department. I am saying this merely to show that Government are not unaware of the position you point out.

With regard to committees and the appointment of members of the committees, from my experience during the last eight months I can fully endorse your statement that you do not go about trying to get nominated. You have not seen me at all in private after I became the Dewan. It seems to me however rather uncharitable on your part to say that the members of the Legislative Council who are on committees and other nominated members of such committees are people who go about asking for those places. I may tell you that Government always try to get, as members of a committee, people who will be helpful in the matter of the work that the committee is entrusted with. There may be several people who are well qualified for the work. But you will be the first to admit that all of them cannot be nominated to the committees, as committees are limited bodies.

Then you referred to what I said in my address about banks. I have said that there is a complaint in respect of banks, that our agriculture and industries are not adequately helped by them. For one thing, there is this cry about land mortgage banks. That is a complaint that agriculturists are not getting sufficient help from banks. I was not finding fault with the banks or saying that they are not doing their work properly. I was merely stating the fact that there are complaints and that the Banking Enquiry Committee will enquire into this question. You seem to have misunderstood my statement. I trust that what I have said will make the position clear.

Once more, I may say, that your valuable suggestions will be carefully considered.

34. Need for affording facilities for the development of commerce and industries in the State.

MR. P. M. ABRAHAM (*Municipal Council, Mavelikara*) first referred to the economic depression of the people of the State. Agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. Owing to the fall in the prices of indigenous products and the poor yield of lands, the average income of an agriculturist had been very much lowered. The

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